



GWI UPDATE – 28 October 2020



GRADUATE WOMEN INTERNATIONAL (GWI)

International Advocacy Webinar Series

HOW TO BECOME A PRACTICING GWI ADVOCATE

Thursday, 29 October 2020

10-11am (first session) and 4-5pm (second session) CET
(please note that the time has changed from CEST to CET)

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)
(GWI Members Only)



On Thursday, 29 October 2020, GWI will continue the fall 2020 international advocacy webinar series, "Putting the pieces together and raising women's voices through strategic advocacy in the changing world" with the second webinar, "How to Become a Practicing GWI Advocate", of the 4-part series.

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— Graduate Women International News —

International advocacy series kicks off with a bang

The Graduate Women International (GWI) international advocacy webinar series, "Putting the pieces together and raising women's voices through strategic advocacy planning in a changing world of advocacy" kicked off 22 October with some 200 member registrations. Participants heard about GWI advocacy tools, impactful social media. Presentations from GWI United Nations (UN) representatives in New York, Dr. Sophie Turner Zaretsky, Dr. Maureen Byrne, Ms. Maryella Hannum, were delivered, along with remarks from GWI UN representative in Geneva, Helen Lom. The next webinar in the series builds

on the first and will demonstrate how to become a practicing GWI advocate. We invite all GWI members to attend this informative webinar series. [Click here to register.](#)

What's next in the webinar series?

How to Become a Practicing GWI Advocate, Thursday, 29 October 2020, 10am and 4pm CET.

Advocacy in Action: How to create a Strategic Advocacy Plan for Today's Distance Learning Challenges, Thursday, 5 November 2020, 10am and 4pm CET.

Advocacy in Action: How to create a Strategic Advocacy Plan for Gender-Based Violence, Thursday, 12 November 2020, 10am and 4pm CET.

Membership Marketplace

The GWI Membership Marketplace is in full swing! Activities have started and we are excited to see such great interest and participation in the programme. Visit the GWI website to learn more and join one of the two streams of projects offered by the GWI Membership Marketplace: [Peer-to-Peer](#) and [NFA-to-NFA](#).

— GWI Member News —

FEMU gains Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council

After a multi-year effort, the Mexican Federation of University Women (FEMU)'s UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) special consultative status has recently been confirmed. GWI wishes to congratulate FEMU for its tireless efforts to achieve this elevated NGO status. Special consultative status provides NGOs with access to not only ECOSOC, but also to its many subsidiary bodies, to the various human rights mechanisms of the United Nations, ad-hoc processes on small arms, as well as special events organized by the President of the General Assembly. This comes as a just recognition of FEMU's contribution to the empowerment of women and girls in Mexico and beyond. Visit FEMU's website [HERE](#).

Celebrating Black History Month with BFWG Immediate Past President, Patrice Wellesley-Cole



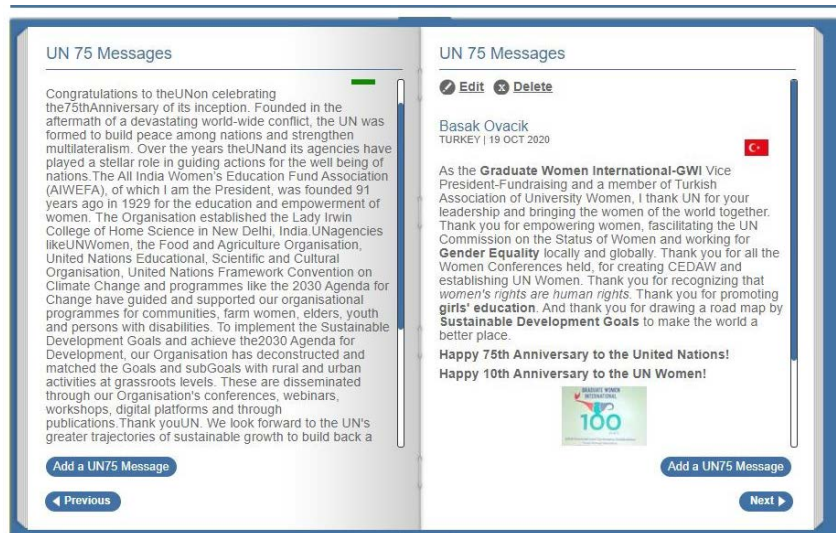
Patrice Wellesley-Cole

In the early 1970s Patrice Wellesley-Cole, Immediate Past President, British Federation of Women Graduates (BFWG), was the only black undergraduate at St. Hugh's College University of Oxford. After Oxford became Secretary and then Coordinator of International Relations of the Sierra Leone Association of University Women. In 1989 was elected as Vice-President of GWI, then International Federation of University Women. She was both the youngest and the first elected African Vice-President. In 2002, after returning to England, Ms. Wellesley-Cole became a full-time judge, with jurisdiction covering immigration and asylum and deportation, human rights, bail, and European Union cases. After retirement as a Tribunal Judge in 2017, she served as President of BFWG and Director of Funds for Women Graduate, which is one of the largest providers of post-graduate scholarships in the country. She describes her time at Oxford as "one of the happiest times of my life and a rare privilege". This year's Black History Month marks the centennial of the U.S. Nineteenth Amendment and the culmination of the women's suffrage movement. Honouring GWI's rich and diverse history, Ms. Wellesley-Cole's achievements are a brilliant example of the contributions GWI members have made to the world. Recently, Oxford published a detailed profile of Ms. Wellesley-Cole and the full write up can be found [HERE](#).

— Advocacy —

GWI celebrates its contribution to the UN's vision and ideals for a better future

On the 75th anniversary of the UN, GWI celebrates the prevailing ideals of the UN Charter, ratified on 24 October 1945. To mark this historical date, the UN launched earlier this year the “UN75: 2020 and Beyond – Shaping our Future Together” campaign, the biggest-ever global conversation on the role of global cooperation in building a more equal and sustainable future for all. Today, GWI and its members call on the UN to urgently put women and girls’ education, empowerment and rights at the forefront of this global conversation that will shape our shared vision for the future. To mark UN Day, Dr. Basak Ovacik, GWI Vice President Fundraising, contributed to the online book “Thank You, United Nations”. This site is open for submission and the final book will be presented to the high-level members during UN General Assembly. As graduate women and members of GWI, the leading organisation working for the empowerment of all women and girls through education at the highest level, your contribution is valuable. Share your story, photos and wishes to UN Women and join the celebration today by clicking [HERE](#). To mark UN Day, GWI also produced an assorted multichannel social media campaign reflecting on our foremother’s crucial contribution to the building of international cooperation, peace and equality and building hope for the future. Click [HERE](#) to view and share our social media posts.



To mark UN Day, Dr. Basak Ovacik, GWI Vice President Fundraising, contributed to the online book “Thank, United Nations”.

— Call for applications —

ABC Humane Wildlife Academic Scholarship for women in STEM

While women represent 48% of the American workforce, they make up only 13% of engineering professionals and a mere 7.2% in the field of mechanical engineering. Overall, women are critically underrepresented in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). As a woman-owned corporation operating in a largely male field, ABC Wildlife aims to pave the way for other women pursuing their dreams in the scientific world, which is why they introduced this scholarship to increase the number of women studying and influencing the future of science. Applicants need to send a 1000-word essay responding to the question why they are passionate about STEM and how their pursuit of these fields helps preserve biodiversity, improve the health of our planet, or alleviate human suffering. Find more information on the scholarship [HERE](#). **Application deadline is 1 July 2021.**

— GWI at the United Nations —

UN General Assembly elects eight GWI NFA countries to the Human Rights Council

On 13 October 2020, the UN General Assembly elected 15 new members to the Human Rights Council (HRC) for the 2021-2023 term. GWI was happy to note that eight of them are GWI National Federation and Association (NFA) countries: Senegal, Pakistan Nepal, Russia, Mexico, Bolivia, France, and the United Kingdom. The HRC is an intergovernmental body made up of 47 UN member states responsible for the promotion and protection of all human rights worldwide. GWI is an active participant in the mandate of the HRC. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about this recent election.

UN Girls' Education Initiative holds gender-based violence (GBV) webinar

GWI participated in the UN Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) GBV webinar on 13 October 2020. GBV is taking place everywhere. It impacts on our learning capacity and furthermore, youngsters are likely to reproduce the behaviour they learned. Although sometimes not obvious at first glance, beliefs are at the root of GBV and it has almost been institutionalised.

The webinar focused on the importance of properly trained teachers since they are frequently the frontline to identifying a GBV problem in a home. School is often the first line of protection for defenceless women and girls if teachers trained and made aware GBV issues. Additionally, teachers can sensitise students and help them learn how to build respectful relationships as youth and eventually parents. Developing skills on how to deal with other's emotion as well as their own is crucial to grow social skills that will cross the borders of gender, race and social status. GWI adds to the webinar discussion the importance of girls' completing school beyond primary school.

— Give the gift of education —

The Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme (BRPID) is a grants mechanism of GWI that needs your financial support! BRPID began in 1978 and was later named in honour of Dr. Bina Roy, educator and former GWI President from India. To date, over half of the GWI NFAs have participated in BRPID, either as project sponsors or donor partners. For the 2020 round of funding, applications were received from Egypt, Ghana, Haiti, Nepal, Rwanda and Senegal. The BRPID programme supports projects that empower girls and women through education and leadership development. The Bina Roy projects are supported by donations from impact investors, personal contributions and our own member affiliates around the world. Please consider [contributing](#) or recommending an organization or institution that would consider [funding](#) a project.

— Did you know? —

At the San Francisco Conference, held 25 April to 26 June 1945, which resulted in the creation of the UN, a total of 3500 people attended (including delegates, their advisors and staff). Did you know, only three percent of them were women? One of GWI's founding mothers, Dean Virginia Gildersleeve was the only woman appointed by then U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt as part of the official U.S. delegation. The nomination of Gildersleeve represented a great victory for women, officially including them in the world's post-war negotiations. On the heels of a successful UN Day 2020, GWI fondly remembers Gildersleeve's frank and fearless leadership and the mark she left on the formation of the UN. GWI is proud to carry on her outstanding legacy. To this day, GWI remains closely involved with the UN, where we raise the voice of our global network of graduate women and work for peace and empowerment through education.



Dean Virginia Gildersleeve, second from the left (source: UN Photo)

— Other information and events —

26 Oct-5 Nov	Commission on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Geneva
17 November	International Students Day, Global
19 November	World Toilet Day, Global
20 November	Universal Children's Day, Global
25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Global
25 Nov-10 Dec	16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, Global
9 December	Anti-Corruption Day, Global
10 December	Human Rights Day, Global
18 December	International Migrants Day, Global
20 December	International Human Solidarity Day, Global

Follow us on social media!



Empowering women and girls through lifelong education for leadership, decision-making and peace. GWI, formerly IFUW, is in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1947 and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO and ILO.

Graduate Women International

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